

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00259 261155Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /029 W

-----261226Z 050373 /23-11

R 261110Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1947
INFO USDOC WASHDC
USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0259

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE, EGEN, EALR, CZ
SUBJECT: WHOLESALE PRICE REFORM: EMBASSY AWAITS CHANCE
POSE QUESTIONS

REFS A. PRAGUE 0164(NOTAL), B. PRAGUE 0020,
C) PRAGUE 2479, D. 76 PRAGUE A-56

1. WHOLESALE PRICE REFORM REPORTEDLY TOOK EFFECT ON JJ7-46 1, 1977, AS PLANNED. EMBASSY HAS BEEN EAGER TO REPORT DETAILS OF THIS CHANGE AND, ON NOV. 22, SENT WRITTD M REQUEST TO MFA FOR E/C COUNSELOR APPOINTMENTS TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER MATTERS WITH OFFICIALS OF FEDERAL PRICE FYFFICE (FPO), STATE PLANNING COMMISSION (SPC) AND MINISTRY OF FINANCE. CALL ON SPC TOOK PLACE DEC. 22 (REF B) BUT E/C COUNSELOR WAS TOLD TO SAVE QUESTIONS ON WHOLESALE PRICE REFORM FOR FYI. IN RESPONSE TO RECENT FOLLOW-UP, MFA INFORMED US JAN. 25 THAT FPO AND MIN FIN. CALLS "NOT POSSIBLE" NOW AND THAT WE MUST RESUBMIT OUR REQUEST IN FOUR WEEKS.

2. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ON WHOLESALE PRICE FORM AS SOON AS WE HAVE SOMETHING MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN NEWSPAPER GOBBLEDYGOOK TO DRAW UPON. FOR NOW, WE CAN ONLY REPEAT WHAT WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN TOLD (REFS B AND D): RETAIL PRICES ARE NOT AFFECTED
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00259 261155Z

AND INFLATION REMAINS "ZERO"; REFORM INVOLVES CHANGES IN RELATIVITIES, WITH SOME PRICES HIGHER AND OTHERS LOWER; SIXTH FYP ALREADY HAS TAKEN ALL THESE CHANGES INTO ACCOUNT; AND ALL IS WELL.

3. WE CANNOT SAY WHETHER STALLING BY MFA IS A DELIBERATE UNFRIENDLY SIGNAL RELATED TO CURRENT CHILL IN RELATIONS WITH WESTERNERS

(CHARTER 77 ET AL) OR JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL. (SEE REFS A AND C
REGARDING PREVIOUS REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS THROUGH MFA.)
INTENTIONS ASIDE, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GOC CONTINUES TO ASSIGN
LOW PRIORITY INDEED TO ACCOMODATING WITH OUR OFT-EXPRESSED DESIRES
FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO LOCAL OFFICIALS/DESPITE ITS CLAIMS OF
FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF CSCE OBJECTIVES.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PRICE INDEXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE00259
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770028-0363
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770116/aaaaanyr.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 092408d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRAGUE 164, 77 PRAGUE 20
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3495889
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHOLESale PRICE REFORM: EMBASSY AWAITS CHANCE POSE QUESTIONS
TAGS: EGEN, EALR, CZ, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/092408d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009